

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 176657
ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY D:DABRIZILL:MS

APPROVED BY D:DABRIZILL

S/S-O:AWOTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176657

EXDIS FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER ONLY FROM BRIZILL

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 5539 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA USUN 27 JUL 77

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5539

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJECT:CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN

1. I SPENT A COUPLE OF HOURS WITH DAYAN AT HIS HOME
SUNDAY EVENING, JULY 24, TO REVIEW FOR HIM MY IMPRESSIONS
OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. IN THE
COURSE OF OUR CONVERSATION, HE MADE SEVERAL OBSERVA-
TIONS ABOUT RELATED MATTERS WHICH ARE WORTH REPORTING.

2. DAYAN ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE VISIT LOOKED FROM HERE
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PAGE 02 STATE 176657

AS IF IT HAD GONE EXTREMELY WELL ON ALL FRONTS. FRANKLY,
HE SAID, BEGIN'S SUCCESS IN REUNITING THE POLITICAL
SUPPORT OF AMERICAN JEWRY SOLIDLY BEHIND HIM WAS ONE
OF HIS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, TOGETHER WITH THE CLOSE
RAPPORT WHICH HE APPARENTLY ESTABLISHED WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER. BUT, DAYAN CONTINUED, DESPITE THE PRESENT
EUPHORIC ATMOSPHERE HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT

THERE APPARENTLY HAD BEEN NO PROGRESS ON THE KEY ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE WHICH DIVIDED US, ESPECIALLY THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. IN THIS CONNECTION HE WONDERED WHETHER SECRETARY VANCE INTENDED TO GET INTO SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE ALTERNATIVES DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP, OR LIMIT HIMSELF TO OVERCOMING PROCEDURAL OBSTACLES. (THE CLEAR IMPLICATION IS THAT DAYAN HOPES VERY MUCH IT WILL BE THE FORMER.) HE ALSO WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH ONE COULD HAVE SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK WITH THE ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS DURING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE SAID THAT FROM HIS EXPERIENCE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE NOT EMPOWERED TO DECIDE ANYTHING OF ANY SUBSTANCE, AND THAT EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE TO BE HANDLED IN THE CAPITALS. NONETHELESS, HE COULD SEE WHATEVER CONVERSATIONS COULD BE TRIGGERED IN NEW YORK MIGHT SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE.

3. I TOLD HIM IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD INDEED CONCENTRATE ON THE PROCEDURAL ROADBLOCKS TO GENEVA, BUT HE WOULD ALSO CERTAINLY BE PREPARED AND INDEED PROBABLY WISHES TO EXPLORE FURTHER THE ELEMENTS OF A SUBSTANTIVE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS - AS HAD OCCURRED IN WASHINGTON DURING THE BEGIN VISIT. SEEKING TO REASSURE HIM, I SAID THAT IN ANY EVENT I KNEW THE SECRETARY WOULD BE HAPPY TO "TALK SUBSTANTIVE OPTIONS" WITH DAYAN, BOTH HERE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 176657

ISRAEL AND WHEN DAYAN CAME TO THE US AT THE TIME OF THE UNGA.

4. DAYAN ASKED WHAT THE NEXT STEPS WOULD BE IN REGARD TO SOUTH LEBANON IN LIGHT OF THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. I REPLIED THAT WE PLAN TO TEST OUT THE UN PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IDEA WITH SARKIS AND PERHAPS VERY INFORMALLY WITH THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S STAFF; ASSUMING ENCOURAGEMENT FROM THOSE QUARTERS, SECRETARY VANCE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WISH TO PURSUE IT WITH SYRIANS AND THE LEBANESE AS WELL AS THE ISRAELIS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP. DAYAN COMMENTED FURTHER THAT A BUFFER ZONE SHOULD STRETCH AS FAR AS THE LITANI RIVER. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IF A UN FORCE WERE IN BEING, A REJUVENATED LEBANESE ARMY COULD BEGIN TO SUPPLY SOME STROOPS, AND IF SYRIA PLUS THE FATAH WING OF THE PLO WERE ALL BEHIND THE CONCEPT, THAT THOSE PALESTINIAN REJECTIONIST UNITS NOW IN THE SOUTH COULD BE NEUTRALIZED OR PUSHED OUT SINCE THEY ARE NOT "ALL THAT NUMEROUS." HE SAID AGAIN THAT IN HIS CONCEPT A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS REQUIRED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE LEBANESE ARMY IS AGAIN ABLE TO RESUME ITS

REPONSIBILITIES AT THE BORDER AREA.

5.COMMENT:DAYAN WAS CLEARLY FEELING SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT,DESPITE HAVING HAD DETAILED REPORTS FROM AMBASSADOR DINITZ ABOUT THE WASHINGTON MEETINGS. HE IS CHAFING AT THE BIT TO GET INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS HIMSELF, AS HE HAS BEEN FROM THE DAY HE ASSUMED OFFICE.

LEWIS.

UNQUOTE VANCE".

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